

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A print control apparatus comprises:
 - an information obtaining device which obtains from a printer, information regarding a consumed level of a consumable item every predetermined period of time;
 - a receiving device which selectively receives a setting from a user in which a notice that the consumed level of the consumable item is in advanced stage is limited to once within a predetermined period of time;
 - a notifying device which notifies the user that the consumed level of the consumable item is in advanced stage; and
 - a determining device which determines whether or not the user is notified of an advanced consumed level of the consumable item whose consumed level is found to be in advanced stage according to said information regarding the consumed level;
 - a printer information storing device, which stores a previous status for each of a plurality of consumable items, wherein the previous status indicates whether a respective consumable item is in a status where replacement is recommended;
 - a registration date storing device, which stores, regarding each of the plurality of consumable items, a latest date when a warning notice is given to the user regarding the respective consumable item;
- wherein when the consumable item whose consumed level is found to be in advanced stage does not have a setting that the notice as to advanced consumed level is limited to once

within the predetermined period of time, then said determining device determines that the user is notified of the advanced consumed level;

wherein when the consumable item whose consumed level is found to be in advanced stage has a setting that the notice as to advanced consumed level is limited to once within the predetermined period of time, and said notice as to advanced consumed level of the consumable item has not been given to the user within said predetermined period of time, then said determining device determines that the user is notified of the advanced consumed level; and

wherein when the consumable item whose consumed level is found to be in advanced stage has a setting that the notice as to advanced consumed level is limited to once within the predetermined period of time, and said notice as to advanced consumed level of the consumable item has already been given to the user within said predetermined period of time, said determining device determines that the user is not notified of the advanced consumed level;

wherein the information obtaining device obtains information regarding whether or not a status of each of the plurality of consumable items is in a status where replacement is recommended;

wherein the receiving device receives a setting regarding each of the plurality of consumable items;

wherein, if previously obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items is not in a status where replacement is recommended and currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items is in a status where replacement is recommended, then the determining device determines a notice of an advanced consumed level of the plurality of consumable items;

wherein the determining device determines not to notify the user of an advanced consumed level of the plurality of consumable items if:

previously obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items and currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items indicates no difference in status of the plurality of consumable items; and

currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items indicates that at least a subset of the plurality of consumable items are in a status where replacement is recommended; and

each of the subset of the plurality of consumable items has a setting in which a notice that the consumed level of the respective consumable item is in advanced stage is limited to once within the predetermined period of time; and

a latest date stored in the registration date storing device regarding each of the plurality of consumable items is within the predetermined period of time;

wherein the determining device determines to notify the user of an advanced consumed level of the plurality of consumable items if:

previously obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items and currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items indicates no difference in status of the plurality of consumable items; and

currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items indicates that at least a subset of the plurality of consumable items are in a status where replacement is recommended; and

each of the subset of the plurality of consumable items has a setting in which a notice that the consumed level of the respective consumable item is in advanced stage is limited to once within the predetermined period of time; and

a latest date stored in the registration date storing device regarding each of the plurality of consumable items is not within the predetermined period of time;

wherein the notifying device notifies the user, at one time, of all consumable items in a status where replacement is recommended, regardless of whether the respective consumable items in a status where replacement is recommended have a setting in which a notice that the consumed level of the respective consumable item is in advanced stage is limited to once within the predetermined period of time.

2. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 1, wherein,
said predetermined period of time is one day, and
said determining device stores a date when the notice is given to the user, if the setting is such that the notice as to advanced consumed level regarding the consumable item whose consumed level is in advanced stage, is limited to once within said predetermined period of time.

3. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 1, wherein,
said receiving device further selectively receives a setting that the notice as to the advanced consumed level is not given and a setting that the notice as to advanced consumed level is given without limiting the number of times.

4. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 1,
wherein said printer is provided with plural types of consumable items,
wherein said information obtaining device obtains information regarding a consumed
level per consumable item from said printer, and
wherein said receiving device selectively receives per consumable item a setting that the
notice as to advanced consumed level of the consumable item is limited to once within the
predetermined period of time.

5. (currently amended): A recording medium on which a computer program is recorded,
wherein said computer program allows a computer to execute a method comprising:
an information obtaining process which obtains from a printer, information regarding a
consumed level of a consumable item every predetermined period of time;
a receiving process which selectively receives from a user a setting that a notice as to
advanced consumed level of the consumable item is limited to once within a predetermined
period of time; and
a notification process,
wherein if the consumed level of the consumable item is in advanced stage and
the setting that the notice as to advanced consumed level of the consumable item is limited to
once within a predetermined period of time has not been received, then the notification process
notifies the user of the advanced consumed level;

wherein if the consumed level of the consumable item is in advanced stage, the
setting that the notice as to advanced consumed level of the consumable item is limited to once

within a predetermined period of time has been received, and the user has not been notified of the advanced consumed level of the consumable item within said predetermined period of time, then the notification process notifies the user of the advanced consumed level, and

wherein if the consumed level of the consumable item is in advanced stage, the setting that the notice as to advanced consumed level of the consumable item is limited to once within a predetermined period of time has been received, and the user has been notified of the advanced consumed level of the consumable item within said predetermined period of time, then the notification process does not notify the user of the advanced consumed level,

a printer information storing process which stores a previous status for each of a plurality of consumable items, wherein the previous status indicates whether a respective consumable item is in a status where replacement is recommended;

a registration date storing process, which stores, regarding each of the plurality of consumable items, a latest date when a warning notice is given to the user regarding the respective consumable item;

wherein the information obtaining process obtains information regarding whether or not a status of each of the plurality of consumable items is in a status where replacement is recommended;

wherein the receiving process receives a setting regarding each of the plurality of consumable items;

wherein, if previously obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items is not in a status where replacement is recommended and currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items is in a status where replacement is recommended,

then the notification process notifies the user of an advanced consumed level of the plurality of consumable items;

wherein the notification process does not notify the user of an advanced consumed level of the plurality of consumable items if:

previously obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items and currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items indicates no difference in status of the plurality of consumable items; and

currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items indicates that at least a subset of the plurality of consumable items are in a status where replacement is recommended; and

each of the subset of the plurality of consumable items has a setting in which a notice that the consumed level of the respective consumable item is in advanced stage is limited to once within the predetermined period of time; and

a latest date stored in the registration date storing process regarding each of the plurality of consumable items is within the predetermined period of time;

wherein the notification process notifies the user of an advanced consumed level of the plurality of consumable items if:

previously obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items and currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items indicates no difference in status of the plurality of consumable items; and

currently obtained information regarding the plurality of consumable items indicates that at least a subset of the plurality of consumable items are in a status where replacement is recommended; and

each of the subset of the plurality of consumable items has a setting in which a notice that the consumed level of the respective consumable item is in advanced stage is limited to once within the predetermined period of time; and

a latest date stored in the registration date storing process regarding each of the plurality of consumable items is not within the predetermined period of time;

wherein the notification process notifies the user, at one time, of all consumable items in a status where replacement is recommended, regardless of whether the respective consumable items in a status where replacement is recommended have a setting in which a notice that the consumed level of the respective consumable item is in advanced stage is limited to once within the predetermined period of time.

6. (original): A recording medium according to claim 5, wherein,
said predetermined period of time is one day, and
said program further allows said computer to execute a process which stores a date when the notice is given to the user, if the setting is such that the notice as to advanced consumed level of the consumable item whose consumed level is in advanced stage, is limited to once within said predetermined period of time.

7. (currently amended): A recording medium according to claim 5, wherein,

said printer is provided with plural types of consumable items,
said information obtaining ~~device-process~~ obtains information regarding the consumed level per consumable item from said printer, and
said receiving ~~device-process~~ selectively receives per consumable item a setting that the notice as to advanced consumed level of the consumable item is limited to once within the predetermined period of time.

8. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 1, further comprising a display device,

wherein said display device displays a warning screen; and
wherein said warning screen indicates all consumable items for which replacement is recommended.

9. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 8, wherein said warning screen indicates that replacement is recommended for all consumable items in advanced stage.

10. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 8, wherein said warning screen is displayed regardless of a warning notice setting.

11. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 8, wherein the warning screen further comprises a close button, and

wherein a date and a time are registered if the user closes the warning screen via said close button.

12. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 11, wherein said date and said time are only registered if the user closes the warning screen via said close button.

13. (previously presented): A printer control unit according to claim 12, wherein if a date and a time are not registered within the predetermined period of time, then the display device displays the warning screen again.

14. (previously presented): A recording medium according to claim 5, wherein said notification process comprises displaying a warning screen, and
wherein said warning screen indicates all consumable items for which replacement is recommended.

15. (previously presented): A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said warning screen indicates that replacement is recommended for all consumable items in advanced stage.

16. (previously presented): A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said notification process displays said warning screen regardless of a warning notice setting.

17. (previously presented): A recording medium according to claim 14, wherein the warning screen further comprises a close button, and

wherein said method further comprises a registration process which registers a date and a time if the user closes the warning screen via said close button.

18. (previously presented): A recording medium according to claim 17, wherein said registration process registers said date and said time only if the user closes the warning screen via said close button.

19. (previously presented): A recording medium according to claim 18, wherein if a date and time are not registered within the predetermined period of time, then said notification process displays the warning screen again.